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COUNTRY East Germany

TOPIC Finsterwalde Airfield

REPORT

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25X1	EVALUATION	PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
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	REFERENCES		
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1. On 5 November and again between 7 and 15 November 1953, there was no air activity observed at Finsterwalde airfield. Between 1 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. on 16 November, individual take-offs were made by five Il-10s at irregular intervals of 1 to 5 minutes. There was a 1/10 overcast and good visibility. No additional aircraft were observed at the field. Between 2:15 p.m. and 5 p.m. on 17 November, there was air activity by aircraft which took off individually. The sky was 5/10 overcast and visibility was good. When flying was discontinued, the aircraft were parked in the middle hangar which was lighted. 1

2. The radio installation west of the airfield was removed and not yet replaced by a new installation. 2 The Lindenhof on Sonnenwalder Strasse, Finsterwalde, housed Soviet offices, a culture room, and a Soviet motion picture theater. 3

3. At 11:10 a.m. on 25 November, a ground attack aircraft took off next to the runway where the take-off strip was marked by white flags. There was a 1/10 overcast and good visibility. Two radio trucks were parked at the take-off point. The starting signal was given with a white flag. The aircraft approached the field from the southwest and landed next to the runway at 11:50 a.m. It did not circle over the field before landing. While the aircraft approached, loud backfire was heard and the aircraft came down at a steep angle. After touching ground, the brake was applied and the aircraft rolled to a stop for a short stretch, with the propeller standing still. Subsequently, the aircraft was towed by a tractor toward the hangars. An additional ground attack aircraft took off at 12:30 p.m.

4. On 25 November [] the radio installation and the low wooden building in the western extension of the runway were no longer there. A new location could not be determined. 2

5. The following observations were made at Finsterwalde military post.

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Building No 1. This headquarters building on Forst Strasse was occupied and guarded by sentries wearing black-bordered blue epaulets. Nine officers, 21 EM and 7 female Soviets were counted in the building area. A radio truck with two antennas was observed in the western section of the building area.

Building No 3. This was the former administrative building of the screw factory. It was occupied by troops and surrounded by a board fence. A sentry was posted at the gate. Two officers wearing blue-bordered golden epaulets and 12 soldiers wearing black-bordered blue epaulets left the building and proceeded toward Forst Strasse.

Building No 4. This building was also occupied, but no sentries were observed in front of it. Streamers and pictures were observed on the building. An officer wearing green-red-bordered silver epaulets with two stripes was ~~seen~~ walking toward the field.

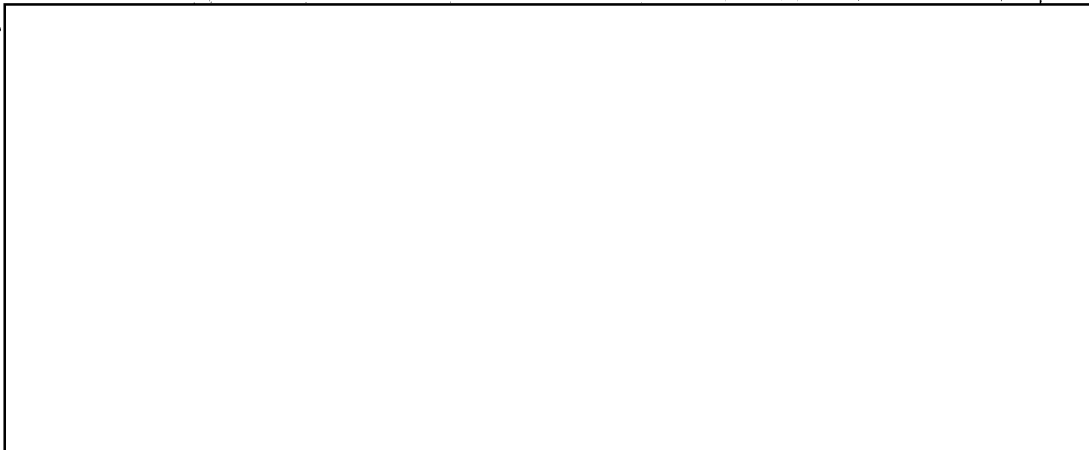
Building No 7. At the approach road to this building, formerly villa Thierack, slogans in Cyrillic letters and pictures were observed. Three soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets entered the building.

Building No 8. This building on Geschwister Scholl Strasse was surrounded by a board fence. The gates were closed. Three soldiers wearing black-bordered blue epaulets left the western section of the building. No sentries were observed.

Building No 9. This komendatura building was also occupied. The area was surrounded by a board fence. Several trucks were observed proceeding to or coming from the airfield. 3

6. [redacted] A cartridge case was found on the road leading from Nehesdorf to the airfield. 4

7.



1. [redacted] Comment. Finsterwalde airfield is occupied by a ground attack regiment equipped with about 40 Il-10s. For sketch of airfield [redacted] see Annex 1.

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2. Comment. These statements indicate that the PKV-45 DF station was removed.

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3. Comment. The billeting buildings at Finsterwalde military post are believed to be occupied as follows:

Building No 1 : Ground attack corps headquarters
 Building No 2 : Officers club, motion picture theater, culture room and unidentified offices
 Building No 3 : Probably members of the ground attack corps headquarters
 Building No 4 : Hospital
 Building No 5 : Motor vehicle repair shop; out of operation at times
 Building No 6 : Main warehouse.
 Building No 7 : District komendantura
 Building No 8 : Present occupation unknown; formerly occupied by transport unit
 Building No 9 : Town komendantura



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4. Comment. It is a 127-mm cartridge used in the machine gun mounted on Li-10 aircraft.

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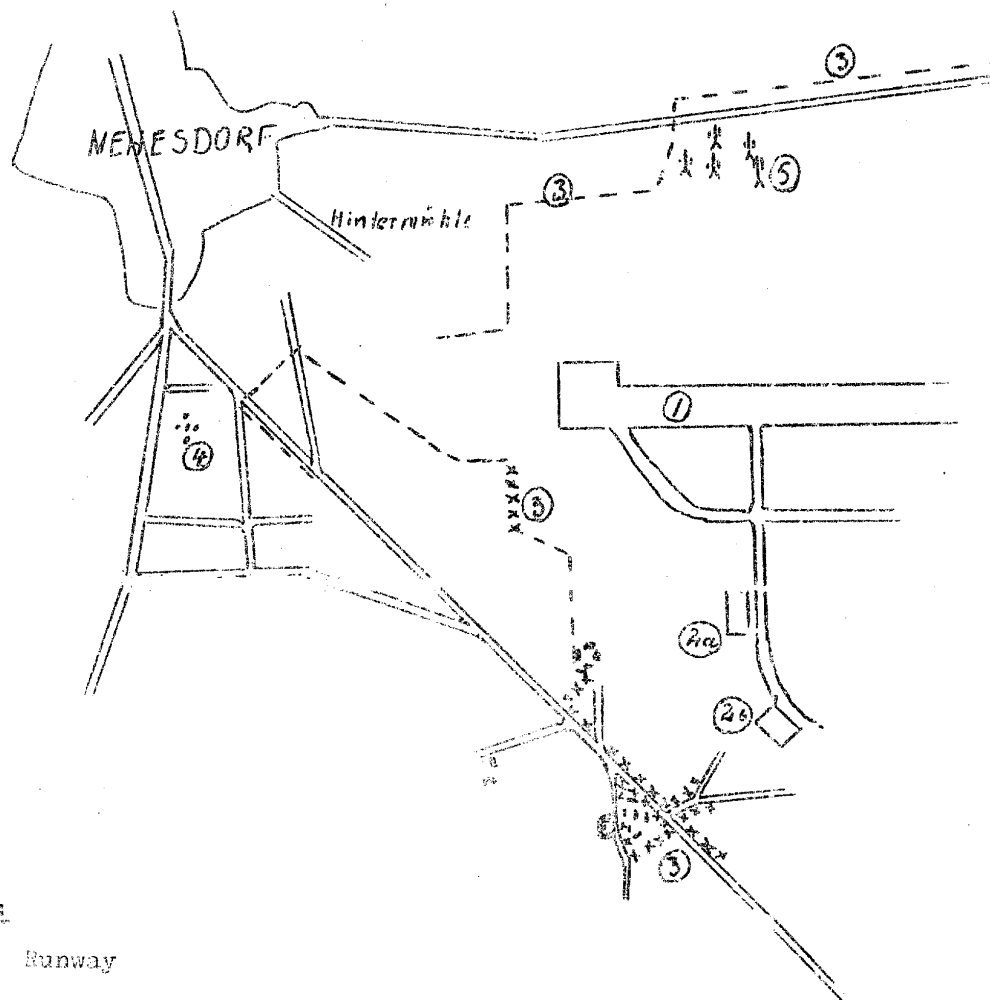
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Annex I

Finstorwalde Airfield

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Legend:

- 1 Runway
- 2a, 2b Hangars
- 3 Fence; +++ wire fence, --- board fence
- 4 PKV-45 DF station, now removed
- 5 Five 37-mm AA guns

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